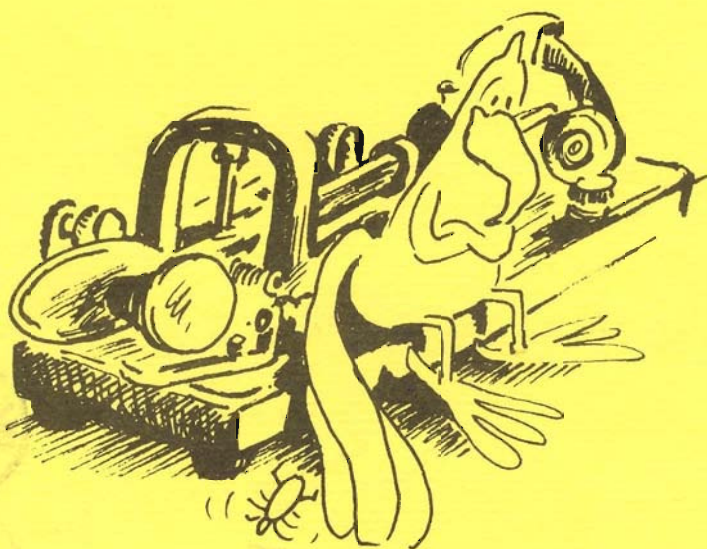


# *Key Clucks*



*Spring 1990*

Tony: I even send  
Key Clux & EX C.I.A.  
CV on HO  
Wayne, NZ4W



Flying Feathers Group.....Jim Ricks, W9TO  
Box 65 B Skyline Dr.  
Cobden, IL 62920

Yodel Net.....Frank Waelterman, KB0PB  
415 Alma Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Bug Night Group.....Bob Allen, W8IO  
22305 Westchester Dr. N.  
Olmstead, OH 44070

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31840 Leona  
Garden City, MI 48135



Key Clucks is the unofficial publication of C.F.O.  
Established in 1979, C.F.O. is dedicated to competent  
Morse code operation in the Amateur Radio Service.  
Crisp letters to the editor are welcome.



## FRIED CHICKEN

In October of 1989 I received a box containing all previous CFO material and a check for \$613.13 from Stan, W9WBL #006. Stan requested I take the funds and attempt to use them for the benefit of the membership since both he and Doris, his wife, had other matters to contend with and had no time to continue the good job they had done in the past. Both Stan and Doris had been involved with CFO functions since its inception, Stan being one of the founders.

The box contained numerous items, including about 50 return envelopes from a "buck-a-cluck" program which was not enough to support a newsletter. It was evident Stan and Doris had absorbed all CFO duties which had previously been done by several people including new membership, dues, newsletter production and mailing, and arranging the annual cluck-in. Included was an updated mailing list of active and non-active members.

My initial thought was that I lacked the time and inclination to assume the entire responsibility. It had been very time-consuming arranging the first seven cluck-ins by myself and it was obvious other talents were required to make the CFO go and grow. One person could not serve as membership record keeper, newsletter editor, and treasurer, so I asked nine members to serve on a steering committee to represent the group in making decisions regarding the future direction of CFO. Wayne, NZ4W, who had previously produced an award-winning newsletter, was again recruited to produce this Key Clucks, while Zeke, WØZR, who had previously been treasurer, offered to update and produce mailing labels. I am grateful to them both for putting in considerable time and effort to get this Key Clucks in your hands.





From both the steering committee and others I received approximately 148 different suggestions. Some wanted a board of directors with elected officers and a formal tax-exempt structure which would have required an annual filing with the IRS. Others preferred an on-the-air, unstructured form of organization which did what they did when they did it. Dave, K8KEM, wanted a meeting so the committee could gather to plan the future of CFO but after several attempts this did not happen. Due to differences of opinion, time constraints, lack of interest or whatever reason they wanted to choose, some of the steering committee resigned. In short, I received nothing but opinions about what someone else should do with little direct participation to make it happen. There were only a few people willing to assist indirectly in making the organization viable but there was no one to accept direct responsibility, much less proceed with restructuring. The bottom line is that there is no one willing to proceed with formalizing CFO.

With this in mind, and the knowledge that while there is concern about the welfare and direction of CFO, without direct participation and members taking specific duties, nothing will happen, and the time has perhaps come to turn the organization to the wind and let it go. There is no membership structure and no one to recognize new members. There is no money and no treasurer to accept any. No one is planning a cluck-in so Dayton looks good as anything if rooms can be found. What we have is a treasury which you will note on the other page is nearly exhausted. The balance will be gladly handed over to anyone willing to carry the CFO forward or we can donate it to some cause that will better the amateur radio service.

Back in 1985 I suggested to Doc, K2ONP, that the almost official policy of CFO was:



Under no condition shall any member or committee operate in an organized and reasonable manner in order to produce anything on a timely basis and should such events occur, whether planned or spontaneous, they shall immediately cease until either late or incorrect.



Doc provided this statement of policy to Doris, who placed it on award certificates. Published in jest, it is apparent there is more truth in the statement than we would care to admit. My personal feeling, shared by Jim, W9TO, and other founding members, is that CFO belongs on the air, which is where it all began. If there is to be any discussion about the future of CFO, it should be done on the bands. While there is no entity called "CFO," there is and will continue to be on-the-air fellowship with occasional get-togethers of people who are interested in both one another and good Morse code.

Steve, K4CJX #007

---CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO-CFO---

\*THAT'S NOT MY JOB\*



This story is about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. In the end, Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

N1KKI

\*\*\*\*\*



## FOX IN THE CHICKEN COOP



The February 1990 issue of QST, both editorially and on page 54, should be of great concern to all CW operators. The ARRL filed a petition to allow automatic[read unattended] HF operation of RTTY, AMTOR, packet, and other data transmissions on among other frequencies 7.035 to 7.045 mHz.

Of particular interest to CFO are the 40 meter frequencies which if the ARRL proposal is implemented will cause no small amount of QRM to those wishing to operate CW anywhere near 7.033 mHz.

Now is the time to use your most valuable weapon, your typewriter, to let both the ARRL and FCC know you are opposed to placing automatically controlled wideband data transmissions on QRGs heavily populated by CW transmissions.

Two committees of the ARRL are responsible for recommending this fiasco. One is the Amateur Radio Digital Communications committee, and the other is the Membership Services committee. The former's prejudice is obvious, while the latter's remains mysterious. Letters and QSLs expressing opposition to this proposal should be directed ASAP to:

Dave Sumner, K1ZZ  
Executive Vice-President ARRL  
225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 01666

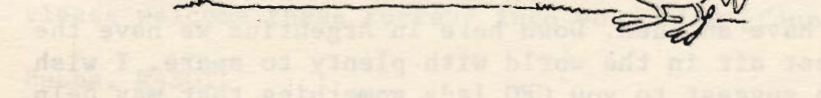
Robert McNamara, Chief  
Private Radio Bureau FCC  
205 M Street: Room 3522  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Without your letters, space presently occupied by CW will become a minefield of QRM from RTTY and

comments by stating:

their proposals.

with a copy of your comments to the FCC.





## THE 40 METER BLUES

Technical whiz Bob, W8IO, has discovered a process for enhancing your signal by color-coding your antenna. The following chart will provide guidance for those inclined toward the experimental:

160 meters	Black
80 meters	Brown
40 meters	Red[the hot band]
30 meters	Orange
20 meters	Yellow[chicken-out in pileups]
18 meters	Green
15 meters	Blue[why no rare DX?]
10 meters	White

Wow! Color me fascinated.

RED=WHITE=BLUE=RED=WHITE=BLUE=RED=WHITE=BLUE=RED=WHITE=BLUE=RED=

Paper chasing? Got DX hunger? Ralph, K1RH, #514, is USA/ Canadian checkpoint for WAE and other DARC DX awards. Details, countries list, record sheets and application forms can be obtained from Ralph for a #10 SASE via 172 Newton Rd., Woodbridge, CT 06525

DX--

The other night I was listening on 7.033 MHz when I heard a roundtable between members of CFO. They were grumbling about the "bad air" that was preventing their signals from getting out in spite of the fact CFO have some of the best stations in the world.

True, you have some of the best CW operators, but you are always grumbling about something. For a country as fortunate as the USA you CFO types are always finding fault more than anyone I know. But that night it was the "bad air."

I have an idea. Down here in Argentina we have the best air in the world with plenty to spare. I wish to suggest to you CFO lads something that may help.





Get together, why don't you, and construct a pipeline and run it from your country to Argentina. That is all the machinery you will need. Then get your Yank hams on the northern end of the pipeline to see how good you are. I'll bet an Audiotron with one good filament left that if you can suck as hard as you can blow you'll get plenty of good air.

None too hopefully,

Yongo Turnback, LU1PUF  
Buenos Aires

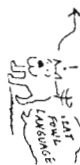


+++++

It hath been brought to our attention that Wonald Weagan has since wetiring dethided to go into the fwied chicken business with Colonel Thanders. The only stipulation wath that he serve only wite wings and athholes. Barbara Wawa

-HO-

She was just a wireless man's daughter who did it 'cause dah-dah did it.



Joe, W4JBQ #339

-dit-dah-dit-dah-dit-dah-dit-dah-dit-dah-dit-dah-dit-dah-dit-dah-

I wish to nominate the following dear friends for membership in the Charlie Whiskey Hall-of-Fame:

Johnny Walker  
Jim Beam  
Jack Daniels

Please welcome these turkeys into your fine group.

Bubba, W4SOT

## BIRD ON THE WING



After more than seven years of operating mobile CW I have ideas that may be of interest to those who are contemplating using CW while traveling. I find I am able to spend more time on the air, resulting in many more QSOs with friends. While traveling on business and being paid, I have visited about a dozen CW operators. I am happy to offer my observations about keying, rigs, antennas and noise in hope that others will share their experiences with readers of Key Clucks. If there is sufficient interest, Bird On The Wing will appear regularly. Drive safely and keep smilin'.

There is a free book available to those who wish to install mobile radios in the vehicles. It is called Mobile Radio Installation Guide and includes such topics as transmitter location, antenna installation, coax routing, radio wiring and connection, and troubleshooting. Copies are available via Electronic Compatibility Department, EMC Building 40, General Motors Proving Ground, Milford, MI 48024.

Dave, WG4T/M #767

--MOBILE-MOBILE-MOBILE-MOBILE-MOBILE-MOBILE-MOBILE-MOBILE-MOBILE-

GIMME<sup>1</sup> A BREAK

Tired of running the amplifier without the obvious benefit of QSK? A circuit is available for an SASE that will allow you to add QSK either inboard or out to the amplifier using readily available silicone diodes from Radio Shack. For details, drop your SASE to Ed Brown, WØEPV, 2915 Kentucky Avenue, Topeka, KS 66605.

-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-QSK-

Q: How are Ron and Nancy like an old keyboard?

A: No colon, no period, and no memory.

## KEY KLUX KLAN

The following attended the 7th annual CFO banquet held in Nashville, TN on May 2, 1987:

### 1 land

nil

### 6 land

Bob, W6WQV

### 2 land

Larry, WA2CVV & Mary  
 Sal, N2CPM & Ree

### 7 land

nil

### 3 land

John, NB3X & Norma

### 8 land

Dave, K8KEM & Judy

### 4 land

Steve, K4CJX & Ann  
 Bert, AK4G & Elsie  
 Wayne, NZ4W & Fay  
 Dutch, N4EGM & Peggy  
 Roger, N4IBF & Sharon  
 Ray, W4GOG & Bernice  
 Ron, K1A0/4 & Merrie  
 Bill, N4HKS  
 Gene, W4ATE & tape recorder

### 9 land

Jim, W9TO & Pat  
 Curly, W9KF  
 Bill, W9ALM  
 Stan, W9WBL  
 Bill, KB9XE  
 John, WB9AOX

### 5 land

Doc, KS5S & Dottie

### Ø land

Frank, KBØPB & Nikki  
 George, K2ONP/Ø & Judy  
 Ray, WØGHX & Mark

Prior to the awards ceremony, Jim, W9TO, read a letter from Barbara, the daughter of Frank, KBØPB and Nikki, congratulating them on their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary. Steve, K4CJX, then flew to the podium and presented the following awards:





Frank, KBØPB: the You Can Do It Better On SSB award  
for his hosting of the Yodel net.

Nikki: the CFO Elevator Operator award, for reasons  
known only to her and husband Frank, KBØPB.

Larry, WA2CVV: the You Gotta Tune Your Antenna and  
the On The Way To Work Retirement award.

Sal, N2CPM: the How Do You Know I'm From The Bronx award.

Bill, N4HKS: the CFO Endurance award, for attending 2  
years in a row though not a member. Bill  
is now CFO # 855.

Wayne, NZ4W: the Nashville Navigator award, for managing  
to get lost within sight of the hotel.

Ray, WØGHX: the Fastest Straight Key In The West award  
for slowing down to 60 WPM.

Doc, KS5S: the CFO Recap award, for changing tires 3  
times on the trip to Nashville.

Charles, K4KW: the Better Late Than Never award for  
finally making it to a cluck-in.

Bob, W6WQV: the CFO Veteran's award for attending  
six times.

John, WB9AOX: the Hell's Angels award for driving his  
motorcycle to Nashville.

Doris: in absentia: the Most Missed award

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Bert, AK4G, rose  
and the room grew suddenly quiet as he said:

I know all of you have looked  
around, and some of you did not  
hear it until today. But we are  
missing one beautiful face here.

Our friend Bill, W40Q[SK], is missing. We loved the guy. I could always, when I called my long CQ, count on him to answer. So let's give Bill a hand. We miss him.

-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-RIP-

During the Nashville cluck-in, a stalwart CFO type approached Jim Ricks, W9TO, and asked, "Jim, I understand there are only two people in the world who truly understand the meaning of CFO." After a pause Ricks replied, "And who is the other one?"

During breakfast in the Maxwell House coop, one CFO member leaned across the table and asked another, "Do you know the difference between participation and commitment to CFO?" Receiving a negative reply, the questioner replied, "The chicken participated in your ham & eggs but the hog made a commitment."

Overheard in the bar at the Maxwell House: Don't try teaching Morse code to a chicken. It is a waste of your time and besides, it irritates the chicken.

--CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO=CFO-CFO

O! Radio as it now exists in the United States is a pitiful, unmitigated whore. At some stage in its history there was a chance to turn it into a caring, artful medium. But then all the toads came along, realizing the power of radio to hawk their awful wares. The stage of radio is littered with the bodies of those who wanted to do something significant...and who were driven out by the pimps and thieves who now run the show.

--WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW-WOW





As noted in Steve's comments at the beginning of this issue of Key Clucks, our beginning balance was \$613.13. The following is a breakdown of funds spent to bring you this issue:

Writing	00.00
Editing	00.00
Typesetting	00.00
Proofreading	00.00
Printing	183.00
Collating	45.00
Folding	30.00
Mailing	<u>100.00</u>

TOTAL 403.00

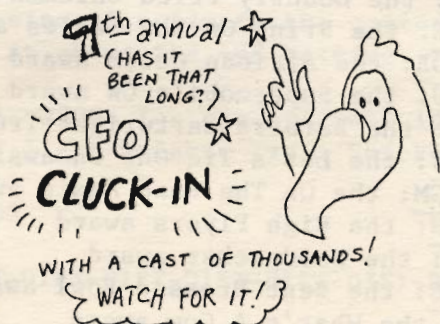


This leaves CFO with a balance of \$210.13 which will be available to anyone wishing to assume the task of making the CFO viable.

Much of the material in this issue is obviously dated. Most of the information from the Nashville cluck-in never saw the light of day, and much other material was never given to the membership. Regardless, the staff felt you might be interested in spite of its untimeliness.

Wayne, NZ4W

\*\*\*\*\*



# CLUCK-IN 1988



The eighth annual CFO gathering was held September 1988 in Indianapolis. Prior to starting festivities an erection committee was formed comprising Stan, W9WBL-Doc, K2ONP-Perry, W8AU-and Clyde, W8EGB. A 40 meter loop resulted. The following attended:

1 land  
nil

6 land  
nil

2 land  
Doc, K2ONP & Judy

7 land  
nil

3 land  
nil

8 land  
Perry, W8AU & Anne  
Clyde, W8EGB & Kathie

4 land  
Ray, W4GOG  
Joe, W4JBQ & Helen  
Dutch, N4EGM & Peggy  
Verle, N4VB

9 land  
Jim, W9TO & Pat  
George, N9EJS & Ruby  
Stan, W9WBL & Doris  
Kris, K9AMC & Fran  
Murl, W9OB  
Curly, W9KF  
George, N9HI  
Bill, KB9XE  
Marv, W9KT  
John, WB9AOX & Joannie

5 land  
nil

Awards were bestowed on the deserving:

George, N9HI: Going Out To Pasture For Retirement award  
Ray, W4GOG: the Here's Lookin' At You Kid award  
Joe, W4JBQ: the Country Fried Chicken award  
Bill, KB9XE: the Bring On The Ladies award  
John, WB9AOX: the African Queen award  
Perry, W8AU: the Supermobile CW award  
Doc, K2ONP: the Barbara Cartwright True Romance award  
Curly, W9KF: the Let's Tie One On award  
Dutch, N4EGM: the On The Road Again award  
Bob, WB9LTN: the High Flyers award  
Murl, W9OB: the Woodpecker award  
Kris, K9AMC: the Best Dressed Fowl award  
Pat Ricks: the What's A Cow award  
Clyde, W8EGB: the CFO Needle Benders award

## CHICKEN DE LIGHT



Do you want to be a light-weight clucker? Do you wish to fly much faster with better keying? Here's how.

Many keyboards lack an essential feature...a weight control that keys lighter than 1:1 or 50%. They are capable of sounding fine at QRS but at almost official CFO speeds there is a lot left to be desired. I own a Microlog ART 6800 that has a keying weight problem when QRQ. Paul, W9CQ, built a circuit that worked on his computer to control weight so I obtained a copy of the schematic, hoping it would work on my Microlog. Paul's circuit is based on the CMOS 4011 Quad NAND gate and a few transistors. It uses a relay in the output. Finding it would not work with my Microlog, I redesigned it and now it works extremely well.

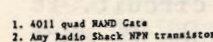
The schematic below will demonstrate the circuit. It will work on any keyboard or keyer that goes to zero volts on keydown. It can be adapted for use with computers and will work using any rig that keys to ground. It is placed between the keyboard output and the rig in an external minibox. I have made a few printed circuit boards which I will be happy to reproduce if there is sufficient interest. I am also happy to discuss the circuit with anyone wishing to modify it for their equipment. All parts are available from Radio Shack. Mine was built in the smallest minibox they sell and uses a couple of phono plugs for input/output with a 12 volt Radio Shack receptacle for the power supply. While the schematic calls for a 100K pot, I think 75K will work since I estimate the correct weight for 50 WPM is at about the 40K setting.

Thanks to Paul, W9CQ, for the original idea and design. Enjoy having a light weight. Try a Chicken De Light.

Bob, W4NPX #903

--DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET-DIET--





two featherless chickens in desperate congress.

%%%%%%%%%%

Da machinen ist nocht fur defingerpollen und mittengrabben. Ist ezzy fur brekken das springwerks, blowen der fusen mit loudispoppen und spitzen-sparken. Ist nix gerwerken by dumbkoffs! Das rubbernekken sightseeren und stupidish gooffers bas relaxen, kipp hans in pokkets und votch das stoffs comoudt.



10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10.



Thank you for the letters which were most comforting. The CFO people were a great pleasure for Bill, W40Q, and I will miss hearing about all of you. Thanks for your kind thoughts and words.

Marjorie Lawson, wife of W40Q.

Several of the guys have asked me to join CFO but I am sorry I cannot. My last job required I hold a security clearance so if I join any organization I have to provide information about it. I have decided not to join anything rather than have my friends subjected to an interview by some clowns wearing beard and trench coats. I do enjoy swapping lies with the CFO on 7.033 MHz and hope some day I can be as good on the keyboard as some of you. I did have a nice chat with Bert, AK4G, who was sitting in Fritz's back yard and was able to tell him I had seen his photo in Key Clucks which was taken by Fritz, W4LJH.

Bob, N5RM

I was off the air for several months but since my return have been making the rounds working Jim, W9TO, Larry, WA2CVV, Bob, W3BF, Verle, N4VB, Dave, K8KEM, Don, W9SEM (who is 15 miles away), Lee, K4CPB, Nick, W4VVB, Wayne, NZ4W, and Ray, W2YS. I support CFO and think they do a good job fostering excellent high-speed CW operation for the pure fun of it.

Joe, W5LQ #122

I want to take this opportunity to thank all CFO members and to commend the staff of Key Clucks on an outstanding, humorous publication. I enjoy reading it and look forward to attending the cluck-ins when I retire. Enclosed is \$20 to help support CFO.

Fred, W0RSW #223



I really enjoy CFO. Now that the bugs are out of the garden only the Vibroplex is left in the shack. If I can get out of the hen house, I plan to join you on bug night.

Clark, KBØB #825

I just can't live without Key Clucks and those good CFO QSOs. Enclosed is \$8 for procrastination.

Wes, KEØH #301

I would like to hear from CFO members who have been successful rag chewing on 2 meters, in particular those who operate mobile.

Bill, W9ALM

My God! Thought you were defunct. Haven't heard from CFO in over 2 years. Congratulations and greetings to all members.

Wally, K4JVT #476

I wish to apply for CFO membership. I can type 80 WPM, shred documents at 120, and alter them even faster. Please send my application via Lt. Colonel Oliver North at the White House basement, Washington, D.C.

Fawn Hall, KB3NSC

CFO is the best thing since CW. Enclosed is \$10 for the treasury.

Dick, KA3CTO #860

Jim and I recently moved to the beautiful hills of East Tennessee where lo and behold one day when my shoppin' demons got to hoppin' I wandered into Ten Tec where a good looking hunk of a salesman demonstrated the joys of QSK to me.



He told me all about CFO and what a fun bunch of folks you all are so I am making application for membership. I can rant and rave up to 70 miles an hour with gusts up to 120 so I figure I qualify. Please look for me on 7.033 mHz.

Tammy Faye Bakker, KB4PTL

Enclosed are my dues. But I can't find any of you on the air. Do you have a secret QRG?

Reuben, W2MUZ #699

You folks have been wonderful while I recovered from my injured back. I especially want to thank Larry, WA2CVV, for his help.

Bob, K1WGM #863

(((((

## THE GOLDEN EGG

HOT FLASH! On February 26, just as Key Clucks was going to the printer, we received a phone call from Clyde, W8EGB, who volunteered to assume the duties of CFO treasurer. With a responsible person to collect dues, CFO is now in a position to go and grow. Clyde, who has been very active in CFO, is retiring this year, so he will have the time and energy to devote to this effort. With this in mind, CFO is asking for dues in the amount of \$5.00 to support the continuing disorganization and future newsletters. We realize some members have given much more previously, but in light of recent history we request those who have not made a monetary contribution to do so now. Please send your \$5.00 to Clyde, W8EGB at the address listed on the masthead, 31840 Leona, Garden City, MI 48135. Stay tuned for additional developments as CFO continues to operate in its typical disorganized manner.



The survey conducted by CFO on 40 meter CW has been tabulated with the results published for your comment. This survey indicates that the membership of CFO demonstrate a somewhat more liberal attitude in regard to sexual opinion than the general population.

Response to question #1

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Strongly agreed.....  | 29% |
| Occasionally agreed.....  | 22% |
| Did not agree, but could foresee<br>circumstances under which it<br>might be fun..... | 32% |
| Not if my life depended on it.....  | 15% |

Response to question #2

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Never tried it.....                             | 4%  |
| Tried it once but would not<br>do it again..... | 30% |
| Tried it once and got arrested.....             | 22% |
| Will try it any chance I get.....               | 40% |

Response to question #3

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very pleasurable..... | 24% |
| Mildly pleasant.....  | 14% |
| Unpleasant.....       | 25% |
| Got sick.....         | 38% |

Response to question #4

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Probably would not be upset.....                       | 21% |
| Would be upset but would get<br>over it.....           | 22% |
| Would probably never speak to<br>the person again..... | 38% |
| Would probably never speak again.....                  | 9%  |

BACK BY  
POPULAR DEMAND!

COMING SOON TO A  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
NEAR YOU! ★



9<sup>th</sup> annual ★

(HAS IT  
BEEN THAT  
LONG?)

CFO ★

CLUCK-IN



WITH A CAST OF THOUSANDS!

{ WATCH FOR IT! }



1113 Woodvale Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37204



WAFDA 550 Y  
TONY MARTIN  
926 GARDEN SRT.  
ROSEVILLE, GA 30741

Unofficial Journal of CFO